2. Rice (in lakh tonnes)

KMS	Estimated Procurement	Actual Procurement
2002-03	165	164
2003-04	226	228
2004-05	225	247
2005-06	230	277
2006-07	270	210*

* as on 20.4.2007

3. Coarsegrains (in lakh tonnes)

KMS	Actual Procurment
2002-03	0.6
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	8.3
2005-06	11.5
2006-07	0.002#

as on 20.4.2007

Ban On Futures Trading

†2781. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose a ban on futures trading in food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any kind of memorandum etc. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of Government's reactions thereto and the action taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such proposal. However, Forward Markets Commission (FMC) which is the regulator for commodity futures trading under the provisions of Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952, vide letter dated 23.01.2007 has directed the three National Exchanges, namely (i) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (ii) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchanges Ltd., (iii) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. to delist all contracts of Tur and Urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all tur and urad contracts at the closing price on 23.01.2007. FMC has also stated that no futher contract shall be launched without its prior approval, and permission already granted to launch contracts in urad and tur stand withdrawn.

Besides, FMC has on 27.02.2007 directed all the three National Exchanges that no new wheat and rice contract be launched. In the letter to the Exchanges, FMC has stated that permission already granted for yet to be launched contracts stands revoked and that in respect of running contracts in these commodities no new position should be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of positions should be allowed.

(c) and (d) The Government have received request from some Associations such as Chennai Dhall Manufaturers Association, Delhi Grain Merchants Association, Grain Merchants and Dal Millers Association, National Egg Co-ordination Committee etc. to impose a ban on futures trading in essential commodities. In the context of discussion regarding whether and to what extent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities in recent times, the Government has set up an Expert Committee on 2.3.2007 under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study, *inter alia*, the extent of impact, if any, of futures trading on wholesale and retails prices of agricultural commodities.

Moratorium on GM Crops

2782. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to put a moratorium on the release of and Genetically Modified Crops in the country for at least 20 years;